

INCOMING TELEGRAM

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 28556

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SUBJ: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: JUNE 21 MORNING SESSION

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REF: SAIGON 28416

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1. AFTER LENGTHY DEBATE, NA CONCLUDED THAT THERE WAS NOTHING IT COULD DO ABOUT "CLERICAL OMISSION" OF ARTICLE 14(10) FROM UPPER HOUSE ELECTION LAW. A NUMBER OF DEPUTIES, INCLUDING NA VICE-CHAIRMAN NGUYEN VAN DINH,

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ACCUSED ELECTION LAW DRAFTING COMMITTEE VICE-CHAIRMAN NGUYEN VAN SAM OF PURPOSELY DELETING CLAUSE IN QUESTION; BUT OTHER NA MEMBERS ARGUED THAT SECRETARIAT AND DRAFTING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WERE ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR OMISSION IN THAT THEY HAD NOT PROOF-READ LAW THOROUGHLY BEFORE TRANSMITTING TO DIRECTORATE.

2. NA ALSO AVOIDED TAKING ANY DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST DEPUTY DAM VAN QUY, WHO AT JUNE 19 SESSION STRUCK DEPUTY HUYAH THANH DUC. MATTER WAS, HOWEVER, DEBATED AT LENGTH AS DEPUTIES EXPOUNDED ON SUCH QUESTIONS AS WHETHER QUY HAD PUNCHED DUC ON BEHALF OF DEMOCRATIC-ALLIANCE BLOC OR AS AN INDIVIDUAL AND QUY EMBARRASSED HIS AUDIENCE WHEN HE SAID THAT HE DID NOT HIT DUC BUT JUST PUSHED. DUC," SAID QUY, "HE WOULDN'T BE SITTING HERE TODAY."

3. DESPITE PRESSURE FROM SOME DEPUTIES FOR VOTE ON MOTION FORMALLY CHASTISING QUY, NA CHAIRMAN SUU ADJOURNED SESSION WITHOUT ALLOWING VOTE. HE IS ADMONISHING QUY

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TO AVOID FURTHER INCIDENTS OF THIS KIND.

4. NA WILL RECONVENE AFTERNOON JUNE 21 TO DISCUSS CERTAIN
TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF IMPLEMENTING UPPER HOUSE ELECTION LAW.

GP-3. BUNKER

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